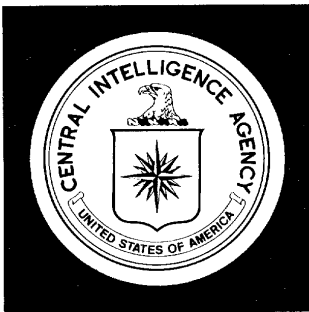


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WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending October⁷, 1972

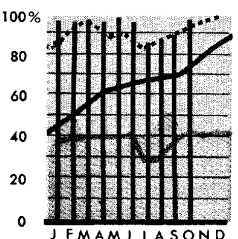
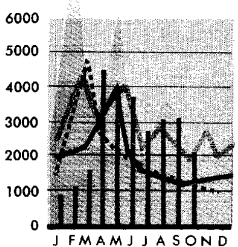
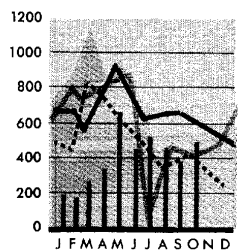
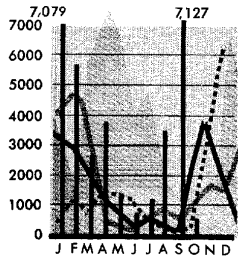
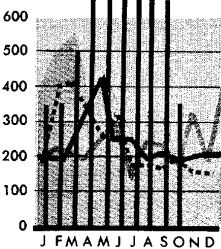
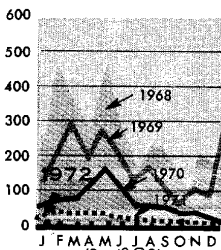
NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

For the President Only

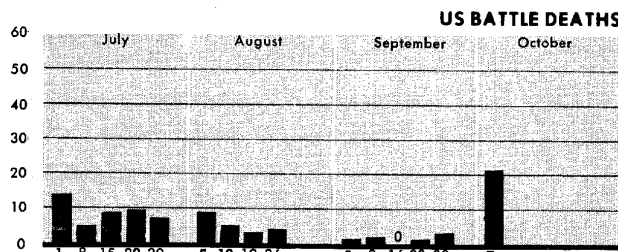
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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

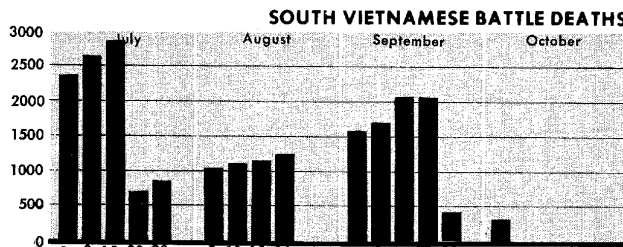
1968-1972
Weekly average for each month



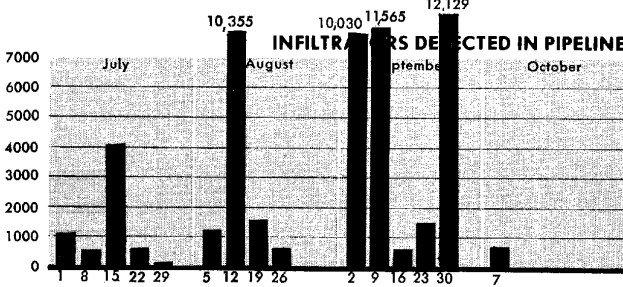
JULY 1972 — OCTOBER 1972
Weekly data as reported



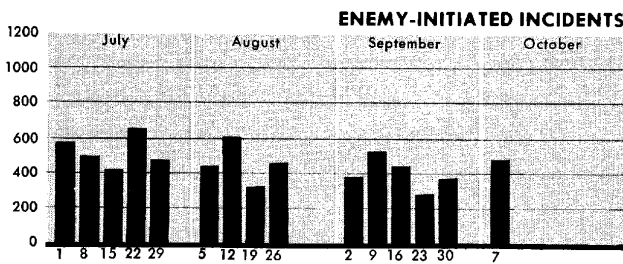
US BATTLE DEATHS jumped to 21 from the 3 of the previous week. This figure includes the 19 killed in the explosion aboard the cruiser NEWPORT NEWS.



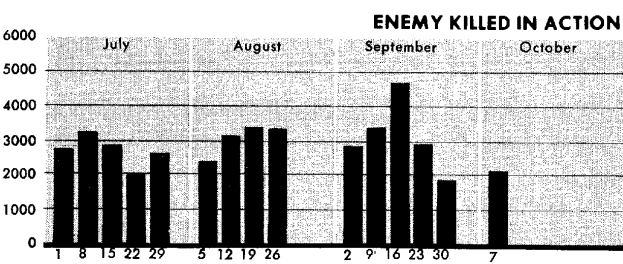
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS totaled 350 this week. This figure is preliminary and may change considerably as more complete information becomes available.



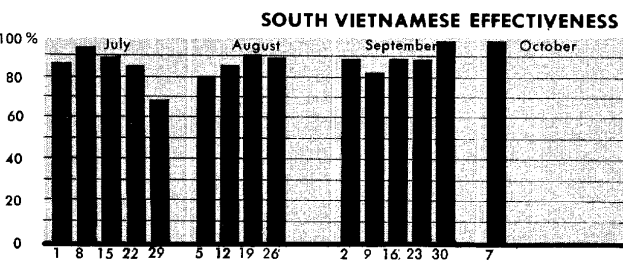
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE include one regular and two special purpose groups totaling 531 personnel.



ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS climbed to 494 from last week's 361.



ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION rose to 2,043 from the 1,848 of last week.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces remained at the same level as last week -- 99%.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

In South Vietnam, the number of enemy-initiated incidents increased last week, but they were mostly small-scale attacks that did little damage. Despite enemy plans for a "highpoint" before the U.S. Presidential election, the present disposition of Communist main forces does not suggest that a new major or nation-wide offensive is imminent.

In South Vietnam's Military Region (MR) 3, there was a flurry of attacks around Saigon which were almost certainly the beginning of the enemy's long planned and much discussed highpoint in this area. Most of the Communist units around the capital are under-strength and probably do not have the capability for mounting a sustained offensive. In this area and elsewhere, however, the Communists will almost certainly seek to launch more attacks by fire and ground probes in the next few weeks, in an effort to demonstrate both their own presence and the government's inability to control populated areas. Although setbacks to individual ARVN, RF, or PF units may occur, the enemy is unlikely to make any significant or lasting gains.

In Cambodia, Communist sappers carried out their boldest action in the Phnom Penh area to date, penetrating the heart of the city on 7 October, catching the government's security forces off-guard, and some of them literally napping. About a third of one of FANK's two squadrons of armored personnel carriers was destroyed in the attack. In addition, two spans of the key bridge running from the city over the Tonle Sap were dropped into the river, thus blocking both Route 61 and the shipping channel that leads to the city's POL docks. Once alerted, however, FANK reaction forces did deploy rapidly and gave a fairly good account of themselves in containing the enemy sappers. Elsewhere in the country, Communist forces are keeping effective pressure on major Cambodian lines of communication. Route 5, the "rice route" between the province of Battambang and Phnom Penh, is closed again. Only two weeks after FANK had managed to clear the highway, the Communists seized a four-mile stretch just north of the town of Oudong. This route has now been closed to through traffic almost continuously for nearly two months. Along Route 1, east of Phnom Penh, strong Communist opposition has temporarily thwarted a FANK drive to retake a key hill overlooking the government's Mekong River base at Neak Luong, with the result that the enemy now is in a position to harass convoys moving along the Mekong River. South of the capital, Route 2 between Takeo and the South Vietnamese border also remains cut.

There has been little change in the ground war in Laos, but the enemy launched a bombing attack from the air against friendly forces for the first time since 1968. On 9 October, north of the Plaine des Jarres, two enemy aircraft bombed the government outpost at Bouam Long, causing at least 16 friendly casualties and setting fire to fuel and ammunition stores. South of the Plaine, the enemy used tanks during the week in a drive which forced government irregulars to withdraw from several forward positions. Irregular commandos operating south of Xieng Khouangville have also withdrawn under enemy attacks. There was little activity elsewhere in Laos.

Enemy Infiltration and Logistics

The new infiltration season (which runs from 1 October 1972 through 30 September 1973) began this week with a total of 531 personnel detected in North Vietnam beginning their trek southward. Recent evidence suggests that Hanoi is planning to maintain a steady flow of men to the south in coming months. The new recruits inducted into the NVA during Hanoi's military conscription drive of this past July are finishing their training and will soon become available as replacements. Inductions have continued in August and September.

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